

Inspired

Dot Artistry

RECOMMENDED MANADALA SUPPLIES & DOT PAINTING TECHNIQUES

Supplies

	<p>BASE COAT FOR SURFACES (rocks, wood, canvas, etc.)</p> <p>FolkArt Multi-Surface Paint – Pure Black</p> <p>Find it at Michaels, Hobby Lobby, or Amazon</p>
	<p>MINI LAZY SUSAN</p> <p>Great for hands-free rotation of your rock or canvas as you work.</p> <p>Find it on Amazon</p>
	<p>BEST PAINT FOR DOT PAINTING</p> <p>DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paint is the perfect consistency. Michael’s CraftSmart brand is also good. Note that FolkArt acrylic is too thick for general dot painting and is used just for the black base coat. If you choose to use FolkArt for painting your design, you will need to thin it with a few drops of pouring medium or water.</p> <p>Find it at Michaels, Hobby Lobby, DecoArt website, or Amazon</p>
	<p>BEST PAINT FOR USE ON GLASS, CERAMIC, OR PLASTIC</p> <p>DecoArt Americana GLOSS ENAMEL works great and dries hard and glossy (no need to varnish!). Michael’s CraftSmart brand is also a good consistency.</p> <p>Find it at Michaels, Hobby Lobby, DecoArt website, or Amazon</p>



POINTY Q-TIPS

Indispensable for cleaning up mishaps! (Dampen Q-Tip with a touch of water and carefully “swirl” away your mistake. Use each end of the Q-Tip just once to avoid transferring smears on your artwork.)

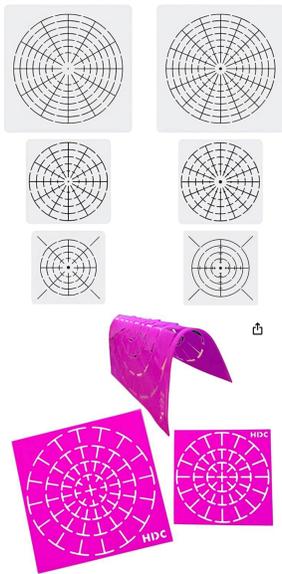
Find it on [Amazon](#)



SPRAY VARNISH FOR SEALING YOUR WORK

Krylon Triple Thick Crystal Clear Glaze is my top favorite, but other brush-on brands can be used, including DecoArt Triple Thick Clear Glaze and Modge Podge Gloss Sealer.

Find it at Lowes or on [Amazon](#)



STENCILS

Rigid plastic stencils and flexible latex stencils are used to create guide marks on your rock or canvas to keep your design in line and symmetrical.

Find on [Amazon](#), [Etsy](#), or [Happy Dotting Company](#) website.



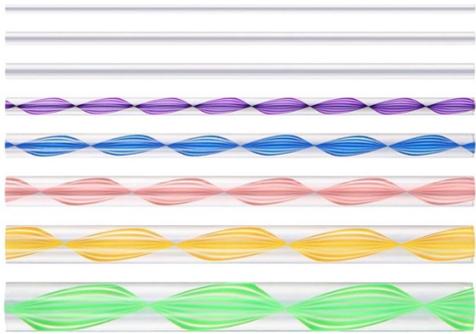
WHITE CHALK OR CHARCOAL PENCIL

Used to mark your stencil lines and can be easily wiped clean (after your paint is completely dry) with a Q-Tip and a bit of water.

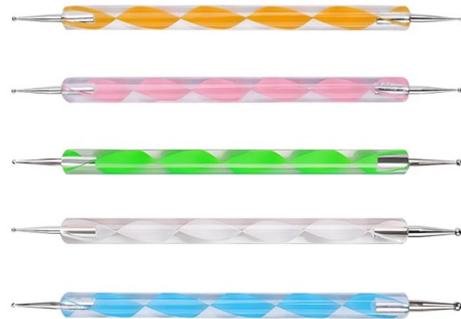
Find on [Amazon](#)

Tools & Techniques

Dotting Rods



Dotting Styluses



- **Holding Your Tools** – Hold the rods straight up and down, perpendicular to your canvas; hold the styluses either straight up and down or like a pencil.
- **“Kiss” Don’t “Stamp”** – Don’t “stamp” the paint onto the surface; just “kiss” the surface. Apply slow, gentle pressure and allow the paint to be pulled off the tool. The more pressure you apply, and the more paint you have on your tool, the larger your dot will be.
- **Dip, Dot, Dip, Dot** – Dip the tool into the paint for every dot. This ensures that the size of your dots remain consistent. (The only exception to this rule is when you are “walking” your dots.)
- **Clean Your Tool Often** – After every few dots, wipe the end of your tool clean on a paper towel. This keeps the paint from building up on the tip and ensures that the size of your dots and swooshes remain consistent.
- **Offset Dots** – Offset dots are made by placing a row of dots above another row of dots in an “offset” position, meaning that the dots are not “stacked” above each other, but instead are placed above and between, or in the “cleavage” of, the previous row of dots.
- **Outlining** – Outlining is when you outline a larger dot with smaller dots. Using a stylus, dip the paint each time you make a dot so they are all the same size. You can either start your outline with the north-south-east-west method, or start at the top and continue dotting in a continuous circle.
- **Walking the Dots** – To “walk the dots,” load your stylus with paint one time and dot in a continuous line until the paint runs out. The dots can curve down alongside the main dot, curve up alongside the main dot, or they can walk in a straight line.
- **Swooshes** – To create a swoosh, dip a stylus in paint. Touch it to the dotting surface, and drag it in a straight line or on a curve until the paint runs out (or you run out of room). For a larger swoosh, re-dip the stylus in paint, dot again on the original dot, then drag. *The key is to drag slowly.*
- **Super Swooshes or Dragging the Dot** – To make a “super swoosh,” make a dot with a dotting rod. Dip the tool in paint again and re-dot the original dot, adding extra paint. Then use your smallest stylus or a micro tool and pull the paint into a point. *Again, the key is to work slowly.*
- **Top Dots** – Using a smaller dotting tool than the dot beneath it, place a dot on top of a dot, in the center of that dot. Make sure to leave a ring of the original color showing below. Add two to three top dots, if desired. *Make sure your first layer is dry before you attempt your top dots.*
- **Peacock Top Dots** – Using a smaller dotting tool than the dot beneath it, the peacock top dot should be lined up to the edge of the dot below it (or offset), instead of in the center of the dot beneath it. You can layer one peacock dot or several, but, again, *make sure your first layer is dry.*